GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:967
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
HIJACKING OF IC - 814
BASUDEB ACHARIA;HANNAN MOLLAH;SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are satisfied with the attitude of US Government in the matter of hijacking of Indian Airlines plane;

(b) if not, whether the Government are of the view that US Government had let down the country and not actively co-operating to terminate the hijacking at Dubai itself;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken up the matter with the US Government and the U.N.;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the US government and the U.N. in this regard;

(e) whether the behaviour of UN Secretary General who kept mum during the whole period and is otherwise very vocal when any US National is victim of terrorist actions; and

(f) if so, the details justification for such satisfaction thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) & (b) The Government was in touch with a number of friendly countries, including the US, during the hijacking of IC-814. Keeping in view the sensitive nature of the situation, a number of friendly countries, including the United States, offered all assistance possible under circumstances. The US also contacted other governments including that of UAE to render all assistance to ensure the safety of the hostages. The US condemned `in the strongest terms` the hijacking of IC-814 and has repeatedly called on all countries to co-operate in a full investigation aimed at apprehending and prosecuting the hijackers.
(c) & (d) During the last meeting of the ongoing Indo-US Security Dialogue in London on January 18-19, 2000, and in the first meeting of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism on February 7-8, 2000, the hijacking of IC-814 was discussed extensively. The two sides agreed to work together to ensure that the perpetrators of the hijacking are brought to justice.
The Government also took up the matter with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), which is the concerned UN agency dealing with such matters. ICAO has reported the hijacking of IC-814 in a working paper submitted to its council.
(e) & (f) The Government had contacted the United Nations to assist in ensuring the safety of the hostages and to help in providing humanitarian assistance to the hostages, including food and medical supplies. In pursuance of this objective, the UN Secretary General sent his Humanitarian Co-ordinator for Afghanistan, Mr. Eric de Mul to Kandahar.